

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03792 212336Z

21

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07

IO-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CEQ-01 CU-04 HEW-06

SIL-01 LAB-03 NSF-02 SR-02 ORM-01 /166 W

----- 064013

R 212217Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5028

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3792

EO 11652 NA

TAGS EAGR EAID CA

SUBJ WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: CANADIAN EDITORIAL REACTION

1. GENERAL EDITORIAL REACTION IN CANADIAN PRESS AT END OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WAS ONE OF PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT AND CRITICISM THAT MEETING DID LITTLE IF ANYTHING TO COPE WITH IMMEDIATE WORLD HUNGER PROBLEMS. SAMPLING OF EDITORIALS APPEAR IN FOLLOWIN PARAS.

2. TORONTO STAR (NOVEMBER 18):

"FIDDLING IN ROME WHILE HUNGER BURNS" SAYS THAT CONFERENCE "BARELY" WOUND UP WITH USEFUL RESULT: CREATION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WHICH HOPEFULLY "WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN DEFINING WHAT IS GOING WRONG AND HOW TO CORRECT IT THAN THE MORE CUMBERSOME, POLITICALLY-BASED" FAO. "THE ONUS IN WORLD HUNGER IS NOT ONLY ON THE WELL-FED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; IT BELONGS ALSO ON THE GOVERNMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NEGLECTED THEIR AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND THEIR FARMERS IN COSTLY INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS". MAIN DISAPPOINTMENT OF CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, WAS INABILITY TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO THOSE FACING STARVATION IN COMING

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03792 212336Z

MONTHS. "THE UNDERLYING DIFFICULTY OF THE ROME CONFERENCE

WAS THAT IT POSED INTERNATIONALLY THE ESSENTIAL CONFLICT, FAMILIAR ENOUGH IN CANADIAN TERMS, BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER", NAMELY THE FACT THAT FOOD IS A TRADED COMMODITY AND SOMEONE MUST PAY THE PRODUCER FOR FOOD THAT MAY BE GIVEN AWAY. "CANADA STILL HAS TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM IN ITS DOMESTIC FOOD POLICIES. WHEN WE FIND OUT HOW, THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL SURELY PAY ATTENTION".

3. MONTREAL GAZETTE (NOVEMBER 18):

"THE HUNGRY STILL UNFED" DESCRIBES CONFERENCE AS INCONCLUSIVE AND LACKING IN ANY DRAMATICALLY GENEROUS HELP FROM THE WEALTHY, INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS NOR THE "NEWLY RICH" OPEC COUNTRIES. "THE SIMPLEST AND MOST PRESSING FORM OF ASSISTANCE -- FOOD AID -- WAS NOT FORTHCOMING IN THE AMOUNTS REQUIRED" AND THE ASSISTANCE ("ALTHOUGH GENEROUS, SUCH AS IN INDIA") OFFERED BY CANADA AND U.S. FELL WELL SHORT OF PROJECTED NEEDS TO AVERT IMMEDIATE CALAMITIES. EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SPECIFICALLY FAULT CANADIAN CONTRIBUTIONS BECAUSE OF "AN OVERRIDING CONCERN WITH MONETARY VALUE, RISING INTERNATIONAL PRICES, AND A POLITICAL FARMING CONSTITUENCY". CANADIAN OFFER OF ONE MILLION TONS FOR THREE YEARS WAS "DISAPPOINTING WHEN WEIGHED AGAINST EARLIER CONTRIBUTIONS" AND "CANADIAN REFUSAL TO ASSIST WITH FERTILIZERS IS MISERLY WHEN COMPARED WITH THE 150,000 METRIC TONS GIVEN IN 1970 AND THE FACT THAT APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT OF CANADIAN FERTILIZER PRODUCED WAS EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE 1973-74 SEASON". EDITORIAL ALSO CRITICIZES VAGUE RESPONSE OF OPEC COUNTRIES BUT SPECULATES THAT "POSITION OF OPEC COUNTRIES MAY WELL HAVE BEEN A REACTION TO OVERT PRESSURE FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED, WESTERN NATIONS WHICH SEEMED INTENT ON RE-ESTABLISHING THE OLD ORDER OF MONETARY POWER WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO THE ENERGY CRISIS OF LAST WINTER AND SUBSEQUENT WORLD INFLATION". UPBEAT CONCLUSION OF EDITORIAL IS THAT "SINGLE OVERRIDING SUCCESS OF THE ROME CONFERENCE HAS BEEN THE GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL IMPACT".

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03792 212336Z

4. OTTAWA JOURNAL (NOVEMBER 18):

"STARVATION CONTINUES" STATES THAT AFFLUENT NATIONS ARE NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE ENOUGH TO PREVENT WORLD HUNGER AND STARVATION. EDITORIAL CRITICIZES U.S. FOR NOT HAVING MET CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT EXPECTATIONS OF A BOOST IN PLANNED AID TO 5 MILLION TONS, A FAILURE ATTRIBUTED BY THE JOURNAL TO U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN OVER INFLATION. "LET US NOT SINGLE OUT THE

U.S. FOR BLAME, HOWEVER. ALL AFFLUENT NATIONS SEEM TO BE HOLDING BACK ASSISTANCE", INCLUDING OIL EXPORTERS. (EDITORIAL EARLIER SAID THAT "IT IS DIFFICULT TO FAULT THE U.S., HISTORICALLY SO GENEROUS WITH ITS AID".) EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT CONFERENCE'S "BASIC FAILURE IS OF THE HEART. THE AFFLUENT WORLD IS TELLING THE STARVING NATIONS, 'I'M ALL RIGHT, JACK, I'M IN THE LIFEBOAT'."

5. OTTAWA CITIZEN (NOVEMBER 18):

"FOOD MEETING PARTIAL SUCCESS" APPLAUDS "SPOTLIGHT" PLACED BY CONFERENCE ON FOOD PROBLEM AND STATES THAT "SOME DECISIONS WERE TAKEN WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED, COULD PROVE TO BE POWERFUL WEAPONS". "EXCEPT FOR CANADA, THE OTHER MAIN PRODUCERS REMAINED LARGELY LUKEWARM" AND U.S. CHIDED FOR REJECTION OF U.S. DELEGATION REQUEST TO "DOUBLE THE MODEST \$175 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN FOOD AID THE U.S. PROVIDING TO THE WORLD'S HUNGRY THIS YEAR".
JOHNSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OTTAWA03792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740338-0366
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741124/aaaaatwn.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <14-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: CANADIAN EDITORIAL REACTION
TAGS: EAGR, EAID, CA, MONTREAL GAZETTE, TORONTO STAR, OTTAWA JOURNAL, OTTAWA CITIZEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005